



The Australian Wine
Research Institute



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Outstanding wine sensory performance recognised

The Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) and the Royal Adelaide Wine Show announced today the Dux of the 27th Advanced Wine Assessment Course (AWAC), held 11-14 November in Adelaide, would be shared by two course participants: Anna Pooley and James Spreadbury.

Brian Walsh, Chairman of Judges for the 2009 Royal Adelaide Wine Show, said that the participants from the 27th AWAC were a very strong group and it was difficult to establish just one outstanding performer. "It was decided that the position of Dux would be shared equally between Anna and James," he said.

The AWAC, presented by the AWRI, puts participants through a gruelling and intensive four-day wine sensory education and assessment. It aims to prepare potential new wine show judges and develop the sensory analysis capabilities and the vocabulary of Australian wine sector personnel at an elite level. Twelve leading wine show judges, journalists and winemakers assist in the presentation of the course, and approximately 809 participants have undertaken the AWAC since its inception in 1992.

The AWAC course manager, Con Simos, said that "the selection of Dux of the course is based on statistical scores and oratory skills of the participants. Our motive in offering the Dux of the course is to recognise talent and ensure that these participants have an opportunity to get into the national wine show system".

For the first time, the Dux of the AWAC was automatically offered a place as an associate judge for the 2009 Royal Adelaide Wine Show, to be held in October – a highly competitive position given the limited places available. The Royal Adelaide Wine Show has offered a position to both Anna and James. Brian Walsh said "I believe both will prove to be very capable wine judges and we look forward to their participation on the panel".

Anna Pooley has been in her current position as winemaker at Heemskerk Wines, Tasmania for the past six years, and James Spreadbury is the Restaurant Manager, The Kitchen Door Restaurant at Pennys Hill for the past five years.

The next AWAC will be held in July 2009, please contact the AWRI for details.

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